



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Sacramento District  
1325 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

# Public Notice

Public Notice Number: SPK-200550141

Date: January 9, 2008

Comments Due: January 29 2008

In reply, please refer to the Public Notice Number

**SUBJECT:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, (Corps) is evaluating a permit application to widen State Route 201 (SR-201) to five lanes from the Interstate 80 (I-80) intersection to the State Route 202 (SR-202) intersection, which would result in 0.88 acre of impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands, adjacent to the Great Salt Lake. This notice is to inform interested parties of the proposed activity and to solicit comments. This notice may also be viewed at the Corps web site at <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html>.

**AUTHORITY:** This application is being evaluated under Section 404 and under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of fill material in waters of the United States, including wetlands.

**APPLICANT:** Utah Department of Transportation, Region Two  
Attn: Mason Palmer  
2010 South 2760 West  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104-4841  
801-975-4900

**LOCATION:** The 2.2-mile-long project site is located on SR-201 south of the Great Salt Lake within Sections 15-17, 19 and 20, Township 1 South, Range 3 West, SLB&M, Salt Lake County, Utah, and can be seen on the Farnsworth Peak USGS Topographic Quadrangle.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Under Phase II of the SR-201 road widening project, UDOT is proposing to widen SR-201 from mile post 3.25 at the intersection of I-80 eastbound to mile post 1.034 at the intersection of SR-202. Based on the available information, the overall project purpose is to add a fifth lane to SR-201 on the south side of the roadway. The applicant believes there is a need to widen the roadway to two 12-foot lanes in each direction and a median with barrier and left turn pockets at the remaining access points to improve safety and add capacity. Over a three-year period, there have been 66 accidents within this stretch of SR-201. The attached drawings provide additional project details.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** An individual permit was previously issued to UDOT in December 2005 for Phase I of the SR-201 road widening project to the east of this section of roadway. The previous permit authorized impacts to 4.5 acres of waters to widen an approximately 3.9-mile length of SR 201 to add a 10-foot wide shoulder to each side of the roadway, install a median barrier, and provide acceleration/deceleration lanes at key entrances. The work was completed in 2006.

**Environmental Setting.** There are approximately 20 acres of emergent marsh wetlands remaining within the project area. The site is characterized by the SR-201 Right-of-Way which is bordered by Kennecott Utah Copper corporation property to the north and south. The emergent marsh is dominated by common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and is either inundated or saturated for most of the year.

**Alternatives.** The applicant has not provided information concerning project alternatives. Additional information concerning project alternatives may be available from the applicant or their agent. Other alternatives may develop during the review process for this permit application. All reasonable project alternatives, in particular those which may be less damaging to the aquatic environment, will be considered.

**Mitigation.** The Corps requires that applicants consider and use all reasonable and practical measures to avoid and minimize impacts to aquatic resources. If the applicant is unable to avoid or minimize all impacts, the Corps may require compensatory mitigation. The applicant has proposed to debit, 0.88 acre of wetland credits, from the UDOT Galena Wetland Mitigation Bank Site.

**OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS:** Under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, water quality certification or a waiver is required from the Utah Division of Water Quality for this project. The Utah Division of Water Quality intends to issue certification provided that the proposed work will not violate applicable water quality standards. Projects are usually certified where the project may create diffuse sources (non-point sources) if waste which will occur only during the actual construction activity and where best management practices would be employed to minimize pollution effects. Written comments on water quality certification should be submitted to Ms. Shelly Quick, Utah Division of Water Quality, 288 North 1460 West, P.O. Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870, on or before **January 31, 2008**.

**HISTORIC PROPERTIES:** Based on the available information (including applicant's letter to Matthew Seddon, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer), the proposed project will not have an **adverse effect** on cultural resources.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** The project will not affect any Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat that are protected by the Endangered Species Act.

**ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:** The proposed project will not adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) as defined in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The above determinations are based on information provided by the applicant and our preliminary review.

**EVALUATION FACTORS:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the described activity, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the described activity will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The activity's impact on the public interest will include application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (40 CFR Part 230).

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State, and local agencies and officials, Indian tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

**SUBMITTING COMMENTS:** Written comments, referencing Public Notice SPK-200702250-UO must be submitted to the office listed below on or before **January 29, 2008**.

Hollis Jencks, Project Manager  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District  
Utah Regulatory Office  
533 West 2600 South, Suite 150  
Bountiful, Utah 84010  
Email: *[hollis.g.jencks@usace.army.mil](mailto:hollis.g.jencks@usace.army.mil)*

The Corps is particularly interested in receiving comments related to the proposal's probable impacts on the affected aquatic environment and the secondary and cumulative effects. Anyone may request, in writing, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests shall specifically state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. If the Corps determines that the information received in response to this notice is inadequate for thorough evaluation, a public hearing may be warranted. If a public hearing is warranted, interested parties will be notified of the time, date, and location. Please note that all comment letters received are subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act. If you have questions or need additional information please contact the applicant or the Corps' project manager, Hollis Jencks.

Attachments: 11 drawings